

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release December 30, 1980

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NATIONAL SURVEY OF FISHING, HUNTING, AND WILDLIFE-ASSOCIATED RECREATION BEGINS IN JANUARY

One of the oldest and most comprehensive continuing surveys of Americans who participate in fishing, hunting, and other pastimes involving fish and wildlife will start again in January when the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service begins its 1980 "National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation."

This survey has been conducted every 5 years since 1955 by the Fish and Wildlife Service as a way to gauge American's participation in hunting and fishing. Survey results provide Federal and State planners with information useful in the management of fish and wildlife resources and in providing adequate recreational opportunities for the public.

In 1975, for instance, the survey found that almost 96 million Americans 9 years of age or older took part in one or more types of wildlife-related recreation. Included in this figure were 20.6 million hunters, 53.9 million anglers and over 49 million people who observed wildlife.

The 1980 survey will be conducted in two phases. The first phase begins in January when more than 100,000 households, randomly selected from across the country, will be polled by telephone for information measuring their participation in fishing, hunting, and related "nonconsumptive" activities such as wildlife observation, photography, and feeding.

During the second phase of the survey in March and April, close to 40,000 individuals will be interviewed by the U.S. Bureau of the Census to gather detailed information about the activities in which they participate

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including among other things, the amount of time and money spent on fishing, hunting, and other wildlife-related activities.

The Survey is paid for with proceeds from excise taxes on sporting arms, ammunition, archery equipment, and fishing tackle, as authorized by the Federal Aid in Fish and Wildlife Restoration Acts, commonly known as the "Dingell-Johnson" and "Pittman-Robertson" Acts.

The 1980 survey has been designed in conjunction with other Federal and State agencies to provide fish and wildlife managers in each State with detailed information about their particular areas, as well as a national summary.

"This survey is paid for by the very people who use our fish and wildlife resources and stand to benefit from the data," says Lynn Greenwalt, Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service. "It is of crucial importance to both the Federal and State resource managers who share this information. The knowledge gained from this study will better enable us to meet the growing demand of the American public for fishing, hunting, and other wildlife-related recreational opportunities."

The Fish and Wildlife Service expects to publish its report "1980 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation" in early 1982. Copies will be available for sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, at that time.

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